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a result of CALFED actions. Critical considerations include volume, quality, timing of availability, and affordability.

- Develop assurances measures to increase water supply reliability such as providing long-term water supply contracts.
- Develop mechanisms to avoid water supply impacts to landowners adjacent to or in the vicinity of habitat acquisition projects.

Delta Protection Commission:

The Delta Protection Commission (DPC) is a State regional planning agency with authority over a 450,000 acre portion of the Legal Delta. The authorizing legislation was passed in 1992 (PRC29700 et seq) and the Commission started meeting in January, 1993. The DPC was charged with preparing a regional land use and resources management plan for the Primary Zone of the Delta to protect and enhance the three existing land uses: agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreation. The plan was adopted in February, 1995. Local governments are required to ensure that their general plans are in conformance with the regional plan; local general plan amendments were completed in March, 1997. The DPC has appeal authority over local government actions. The 19 member DPC includes six directors of State agencies, five county supervisors, three city councilmembers, and five reclamation district representatives. The DPC is slated to sunset on January 1, 1999. The Legislature is considering extension of the DPC for 10 years. The DPC web site is www.delta.ca.gov.

State and Federal policies for the Protection of Agricultural Resources:

Federal - the Farmland Protection Program included in the Federal Agricultural Improvement and Reform Act of 1996. Congressional intent language includes:

the Nation's farmland is "a unique natural resource", and that each year "a large amount of the Nation's farmland" was being "irrevocably converted from actual or potential agricultural use to non agricultural use," in many cases as a result of action taken or assisted by the federal government. **The FPPA directs federal agencies to identify and take into account the adverse effects of federal programs on the preservation of farmland; consider alternative actions, as appropriate, that could lessen such adverse effects; and assure that such federal programs, to the extent practicable, are compatible with state government, local government, and private programs and policies to protect farmland. (Fed. Reg., June 17, 1994, p 31110)**

State -

- One of the major principles of the state's agricultural policy shall be to sustain the long-term productivity of the state's farms by conserving and protecting the soil, water, and air which are agriculture's basic resources. In promoting and protecting the agricultural industry, the Legislature will review actions for their effects on 13 factors, including productive agricultural land, and agricultural water supplies. (Thurman Agricultural Policy Act; FAC Sec. 821, 822)
- The preservation of a maximum amount of the limited supply of agricultural land is necessary to the conservation of the state's economic resources, and is necessary not only to the maintenance of the agricultural economy of the state, but also for the assurance of adequate, healthful and nutritious food for future residents of this state and nation. (Williamson Act; GC Sec. 51220 (a))
- It is the intent of the Legislature to protect farming and ranching operations in agricultural areas from nonfarm or nonranch land uses that may hinder and curtail

farming or ranching operations and encourage long-term conservation of productive agricultural lands in order to protect the agricultural economy of rural communities, as well as that of the state, for future generations of Californians. (PRC Sec. 10202)

- The Resources Agency shall develop an amendment to Appendix G of the state (CEQA) guidelines to ensure that significant effects on the environment of agricultural land conversions are quantitatively and consistently considered in the environmental review process. (PRC Sec. 21095)
- Lands suitable for agricultural use shall not be converted to nonagricultural uses unless continued agricultural use is not feasible or such conversion would preserve prime agricultural land. (PRC Sec. 30242)
- State Right-to-Farm Policy - No agricultural activity, operation, or facility conducted for commercial purposes, in a manner consistent with proper and accepted customs shall become a nuisance due to any changed condition in or about the locality, after it has been in operation for more than 3 years. (Civil Code Sec. 3482.5)

Suggested CALFED policy regarding agricultural resources:

- **CALFED should adopt a policy to maintain the productivity and flexibility of agricultural resources to the greatest extent practicable** when implementing the CALFED Program in its entirety.
- **CALFED should explicitly reference the State Right-to-Farm policy as cited above.**
- CALFED should also establish a policy that **to the greatest extent practicable, CALFED goals and objectives will be met through CALFED actions that maintain land in private ownership** in order to best preserve the economic and environmental productivity of that land.

Other mitigation:

- If agricultural water resources are acquired for other uses, provide an equivalent mitigation water supply for agricultural use on other lands. Standard of adequacy: One to one at the point of use, considering water quality, timing, cost and reliability of supply. Since water supply is a limiting factor in agricultural resource productivity in many areas of the State, and CALFED's fundamental mission relating to a reliable and adequate water supply, it logically follows that providing an adequate and high quality water supply to other sites or regions is a reasonable approach to mitigation. This is not a new concept. Off-site mitigation for impacts on environmental resources is standard practice in CEQA. For example the Department of Fish and Game has standards for creation, maintenance, and protection of wetlands to offset unavoidable impacts on existing wetlands.
- A portion of any newly developed CALFED water supply is identified as agricultural mitigation water, based on the amount of agricultural water redirected to other uses as